

Dear Commissioner Peterson,

Thank you for attending Tuesday night's meeting at U Mass Amherst to allow citizens of Western Mass to share with you the impact on us of the decision under consideration regarding broadband access here, and for soliciting additional comments.

I am a professional filmmaker living on Taylor Hill in the town of Montague. As you know, Taylor Hill is not currently served by the town's broadband. This has a profound impact on me professionally, in addition to the lack of safety and security it provides in light of any emergency.

My work requires constant access to high-speed internet in order to communicate with clients, curators, gallerists, and colleagues around the world, to upload and download very large files, to stream video, to do research, and to make purchases. I currently rent an 880 sq.ft workplace in Easthampton (a 40 minute drive each way), where I have excellent high-speed service. I have long wanted to bring my workplace home, building a studio there, but have been deterred because of the lack of high speed access there.

We have Verizon-serviced DSL at home. It is abominable. Not only am I unable to upload and download very large files, or to stream video, but our service is so poor that it even getting and receiving email and getting on the internet for research or to purchase film is practically impossible. The signal cuts out every few seconds. It is so poor, that I am forced to rely on use of my iPhone's cellular data in order to do these simple tasks. WiFi is impossible.

My work is of the nature that I do it 24/7. That means that when I am home from my Easthampton studio, on evenings and weekends, I still need high speed internet. Currently, that forces me to frequently and regularly leave my home and travel to commercial places of business as far as Amherst or Greenfield (20-30 minutes) in order to be able to send work overseas or review a colleague's work. This is absolutely unsustainable.

*I plead with you* to immediately award the contract under consideration to Matrix. If you make the egregious choice of awarding it to Comcast, we will be one of 140 homes (the vast majority of currently unserved homes in Montague) that Comcast has already stated it WILL NOT connect to broadband.

That it could *even be considered* to award the contract to a provider who will only provide service to a fraction of the homes currently handicapped is unconscionable!

With due respect, and passionate hope for an outcome that will let us join the rest of the state in the 21st century. The people here have spoken, and we need Matrix!

Thank you for listening closely and deeply to our needs,

Sarah Bliss  
<http://www.SarahBlissArt.com>